

# McKINNEY-VENTO 101

## OUR INVISIBLE STUDENTS: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Special Populations Unit

# *Welcome to McKinney-Vento 101!*

## **Show of hands:**

- How many have been a District Homeless Education Liaison for LESS THAN ONE YEAR?
- Less than TWO YEARS?
- Less than FIVE YEARS?
- How many have attended a TRAINING on Liaison duties and district responsibilities (before this one)

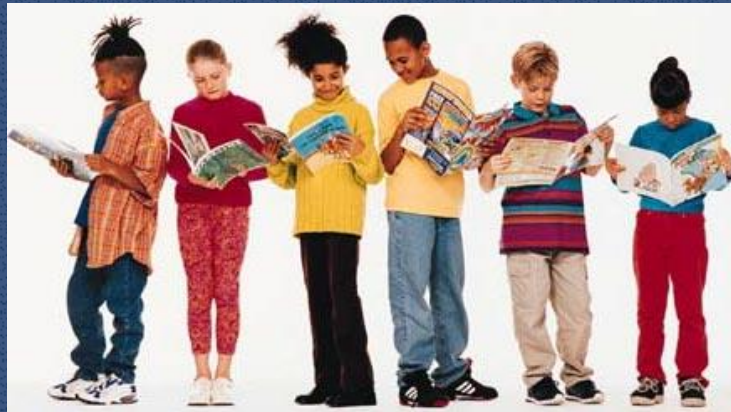


*Enough about YOU...* 😊



# What About THEM???

- More than 1.6 million children will experience homelessness over the course of a year
- 42% of these children are under the age of 6
- 47% of them are African-American



# What About THEM???

- An estimated 1.6 – 1.7 million youth become homeless each year
- Females, African-Americans, and Native Americans are over-represented among these youth
- Between 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT



Understanding Homeless Youth: Numbers, Characteristics, Multisystem Involvement, and Intervention Options. Testimony Given before the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, June 19, 2007. Urban Institute.

Ringwalt, C. L.; Greene, J. M.; Robertson, M. J. 1998. Familial Backgrounds and Risk Behaviors of Youth with Thrownaway Experiences. *Journal of Adolescence* 21(3): 241-252.



# What About THEM???

- In any given day, researchers estimate that more than 200,000 children have no place to live
- Homeless families are more likely to be headed by a single mother in her 20s with young children
- Between the 2007-2008 and the 2013-2014 school years, Michigan school districts reported numbers of homeless students identified *increased by over 500%.*  
(2014-15 data not yet available)



# Homelessness is an economic issue... not a character flaw

## The major factors contributing to homelessness:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty
- Domestic violence
- Lack of employment or underemployment
- Debt and/or lack of income
- Addiction
- Disabilities or health problems
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse (physical & sexual), neglect, parental substance abuse, and family conflict (for unaccompanied youth)





# Lack of Affordable Housing



## 2014 US Housing Wage for a 2-bdrm apartment = \$18.92

- More than 2.5 times the federal minimum wage
- 52% higher than it was in 2000
- In no state can a full-time minimum wage worker afford a 1-bdrm or a 2-bdrm rental unit at Fair Market Rent

# Child Poverty

- Research is clear that poverty is the **single greatest threat to children's well-being**
- **22% of all children – 16 million children in the US –** live in families with incomes **below the federal poverty level** – \$23,550 a year for a family of four
- Research shows that, on average, **families need an income of about twice that level to cover basic expenses**
- Most of these children have **parents who work**, but low wages and unstable employment leave families struggling to make ends meet





# Child Poverty

- **Poverty can impede children's ability to learn** and contribute to social, emotional, and behavioral problems.
- Poverty also can contribute to **poor physical and mental health.**
- **Risks are greatest for children who experience poverty when they are young and/or experience deep and persistent poverty.**



# Who is Homeless?

Children who lack a *fixed, regular, and adequate* nighttime residence:

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, cars, RV/trailer parks, or campgrounds, due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency, domestic violence, youth or transitional shelters



# Who is Homeless? (continued)

## Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- Temporary foster care placement or awaiting placement (MDE Guidance: < 6 months)
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live or sleep
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, under bridges, etc.
- Migratory children living in above circumstances

# Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

- Enrollment requirements (lack of school records, immunizations, proof of residence, guardianship)
- High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and educational continuity
- Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.
- Lack of access to programs
- Lack of transportation
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- Prejudice and misunderstanding





# Research on School Mobility

- It takes children an average of 4-6 months to recover academically after changing schools
- Mobile students score 20 points lower on standardized tests than non-mobile students
- Mobile students are less likely to participate in extracurricular activities and more likely to act out or get into trouble



# Research on School Mobility (continued)

- Average test scores for non-mobile students were significantly lower in high schools with high student mobility rates.
- Students who changed high schools even once were less than half as likely as stable students to graduate, even controlling for other factors.

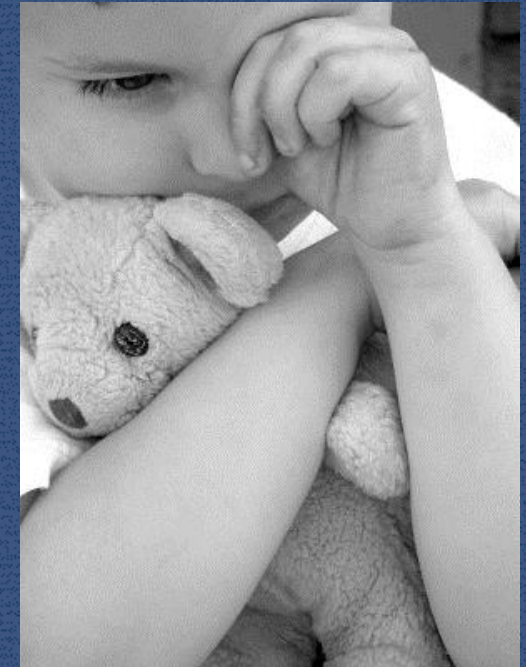




# Impact of Homelessness on Children and Youth

Research shows that homeless children are more likely to suffer from:

- Health problems
- Emotional and mental health problems
- Developmental problems
  - ❑ 4 times more likely to show delayed development
  - ❑ 2 times as likely to have learning disabilities as non-homeless children



# Impact of Homelessness on Children and Youth

(continued)

Research shows that homeless children are more likely to suffer from academic performance problems

- **2.5** times more likely to perform below grade level **in math**
- **1.5** times more likely to perform below grade level **in reading**
- **1.5** times more likely to perform below grade level **in spelling**



# A Brief History of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- 1987 The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is signed into law, requiring states to review and revise residency requirements for the enrollment of homeless children and youth.
- 1990 The McKinney Act is amended, requiring states to eliminate all enrollment barriers, and provide school access and support for academic success for students experiencing homelessness; McKinney funds may now be used to provide direct educational services for eligible students.
- 1994 The education portion of the McKinney Act is included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), adding preschool services, greater parental input, and emphasis on interagency collaboration.
- 2002 The Act is reauthorized as the McKinney-Vento Act (Title X, Part C of ESEA), strengthening legislative requirements and requiring all school districts to appoint a local liaison to ensure the law is implemented effectively at the local level.

# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Reauthorized in 2002 as Title X, Part C of NCLB (ESEA)
- Main themes:
  - School stability
  - School access
  - Support for academic success
  - Child-centered focus
  - Decision making in the best interest of child





# Rights of Homeless Children/Youth

- Right to immediate enrollment, even when documentation and records are not present
- Right to remain in the school of origin, if in the student's best interest
- Right to receive transportation to the school of origin
- Right to receive support for academic success



# The Roles of Local Liaisons

By linking students and their families to school and community services, **District Homeless Education Liaisons** play a critical role in stabilizing students and promoting academic achievement at the individual, school, and district level.





# Community Collaborations MCKINNEY-VENTO IN ACTION

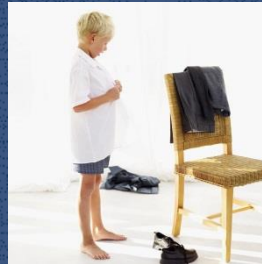


**School Supplies**

**Eye glasses**



**Space For After-school Activities**



**Clothing And Shoes**



**Dental Care**



**Social Work And Counseling Assistance**

**Immunizations**

**School Uniforms**



**Parents**

**Medical Care**



**FOOD**



**Tutoring And Mentoring**



**Employment For Parents**



**Payment Of School Fees**



**Transportation For Students  
Field Trips**

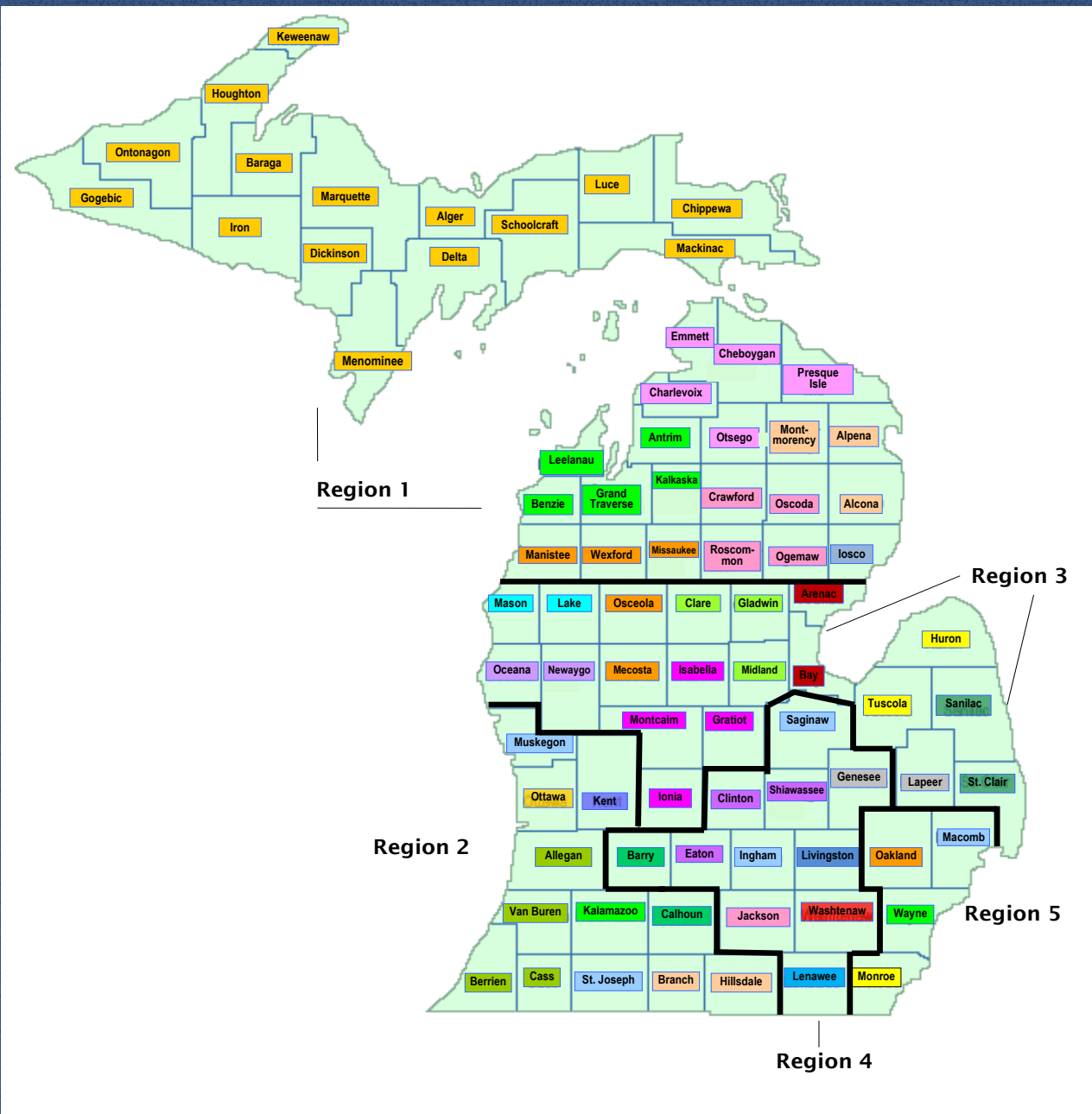
# Identifying Eligible MV Students

## Why don't families or students just TELL THE SCHOOL?

- Embarrassed by domestic violence, financial situation and/or homelessness
- Fear of having children taken away by CPS or being separated in shelter
- Fear of being returned to unsafe family environments (UHY)
- School personnel often do not understand the nature of homelessness and its causes, or the breadth of the federal definition of homelessness.



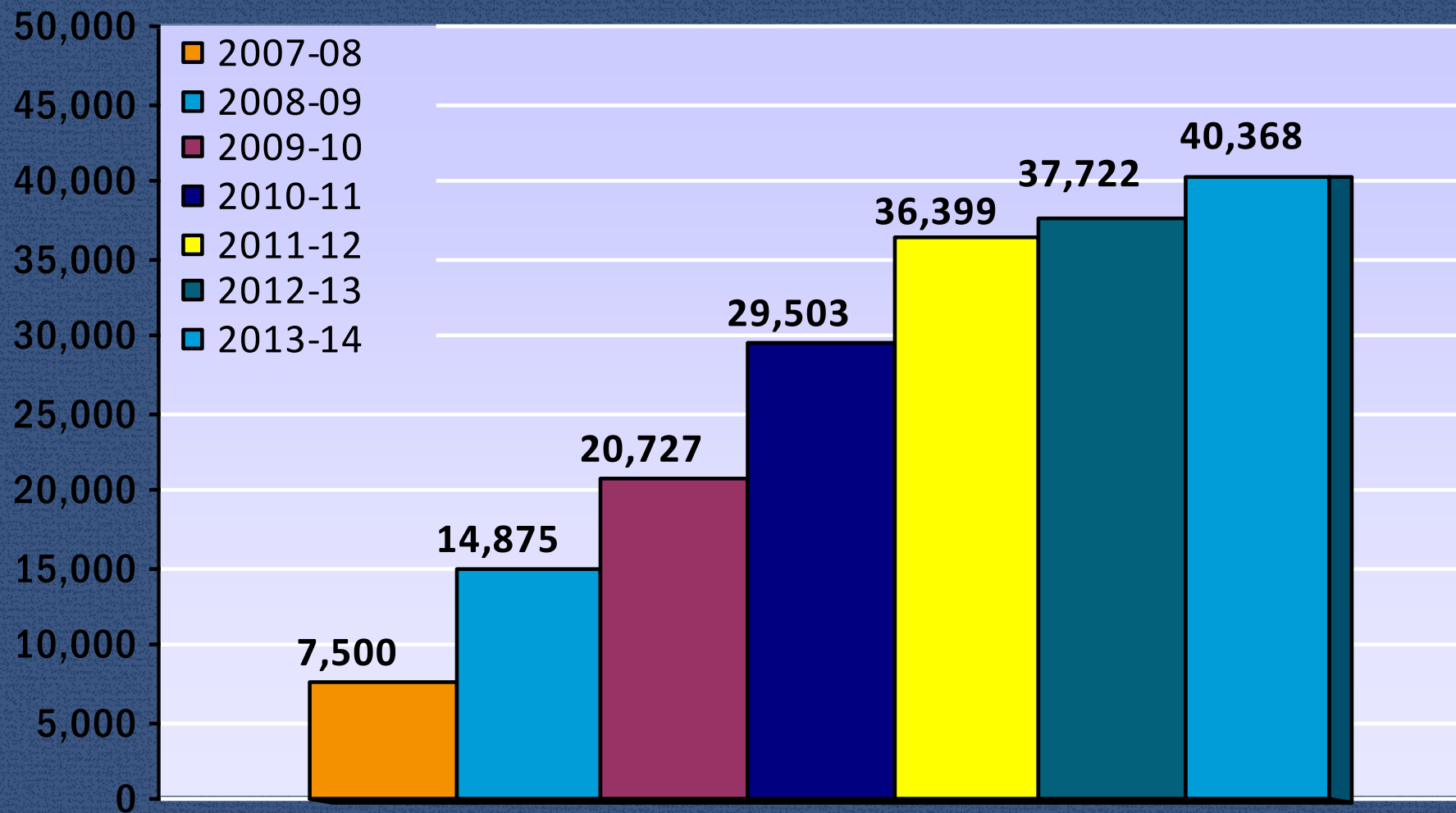




# McKinney-Vento Grant Consortia 2014 - 2017

- ALL MI COUNTIES represented in Homeless Education Grant Consortia
- Over 96% of MI LEAs participating in M-V Grant Consortia
- Now 34 Grant Consortia

# Michigan Homeless Student Enrollment Data

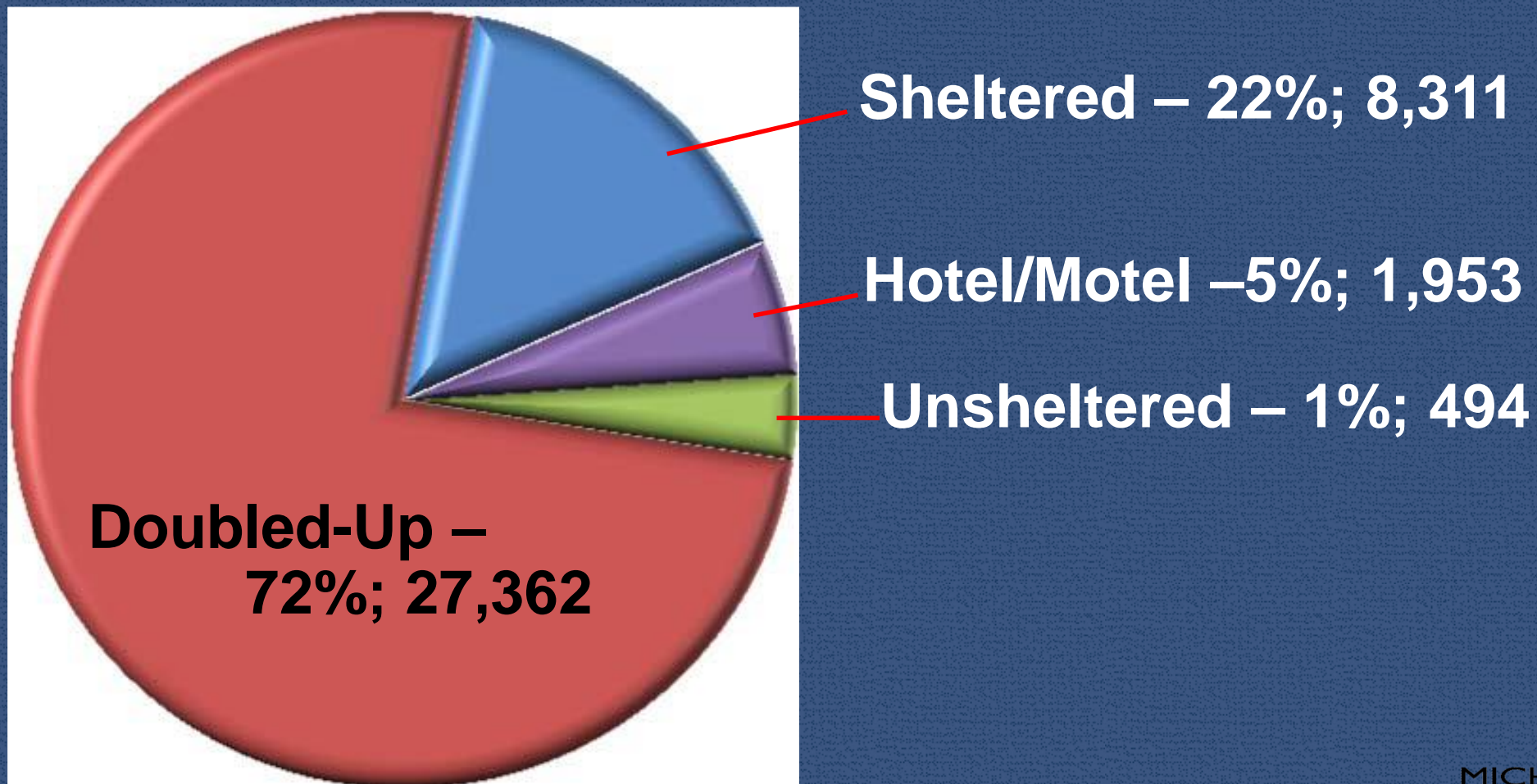


Unduplicated at the State level

*Includes preliminary 2013-14 District data*



# Homeless Student Nighttime Residency 2013-14

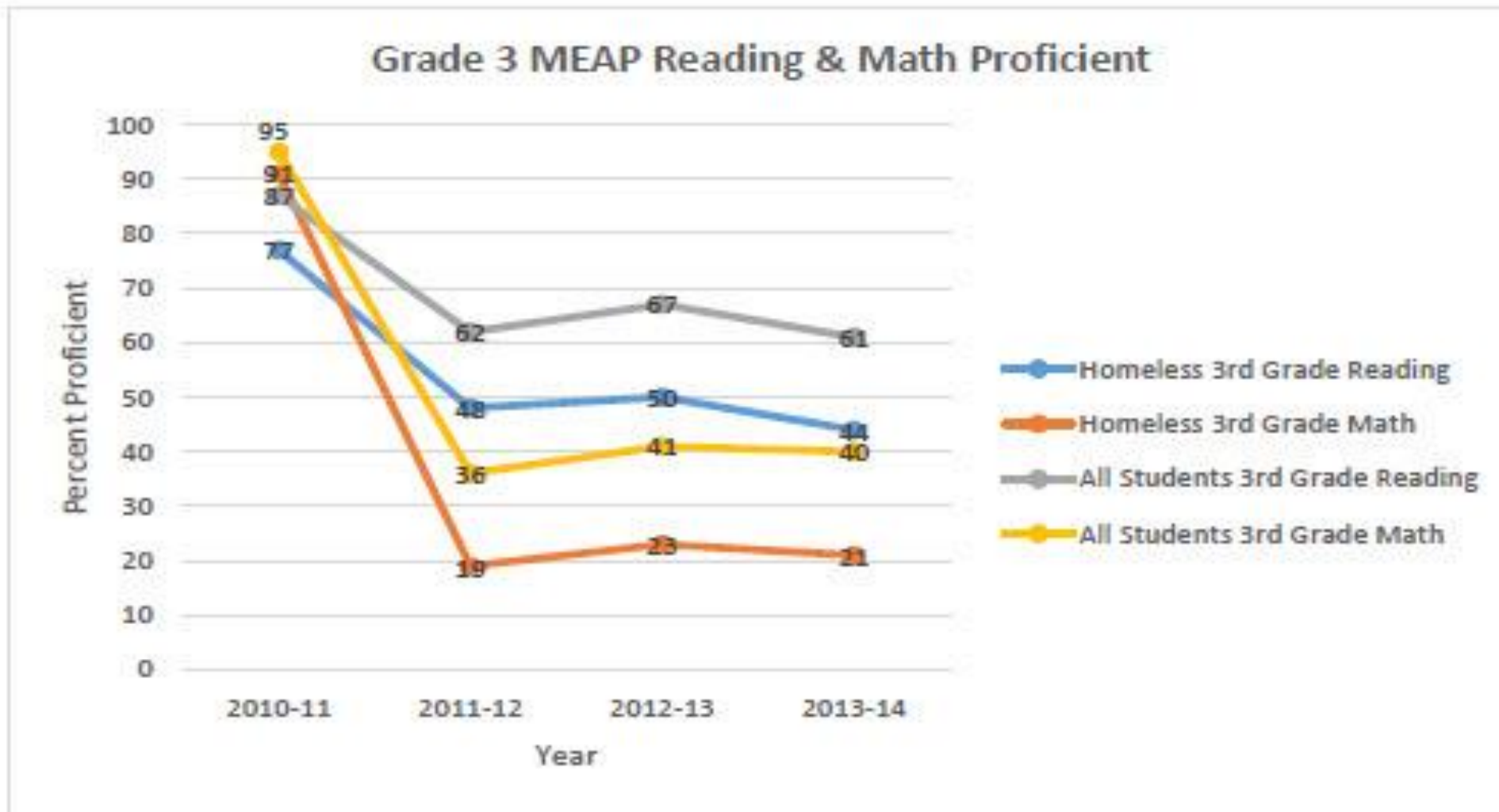


# Homeless Student Enrollment Data: Subgroups Identified & Served

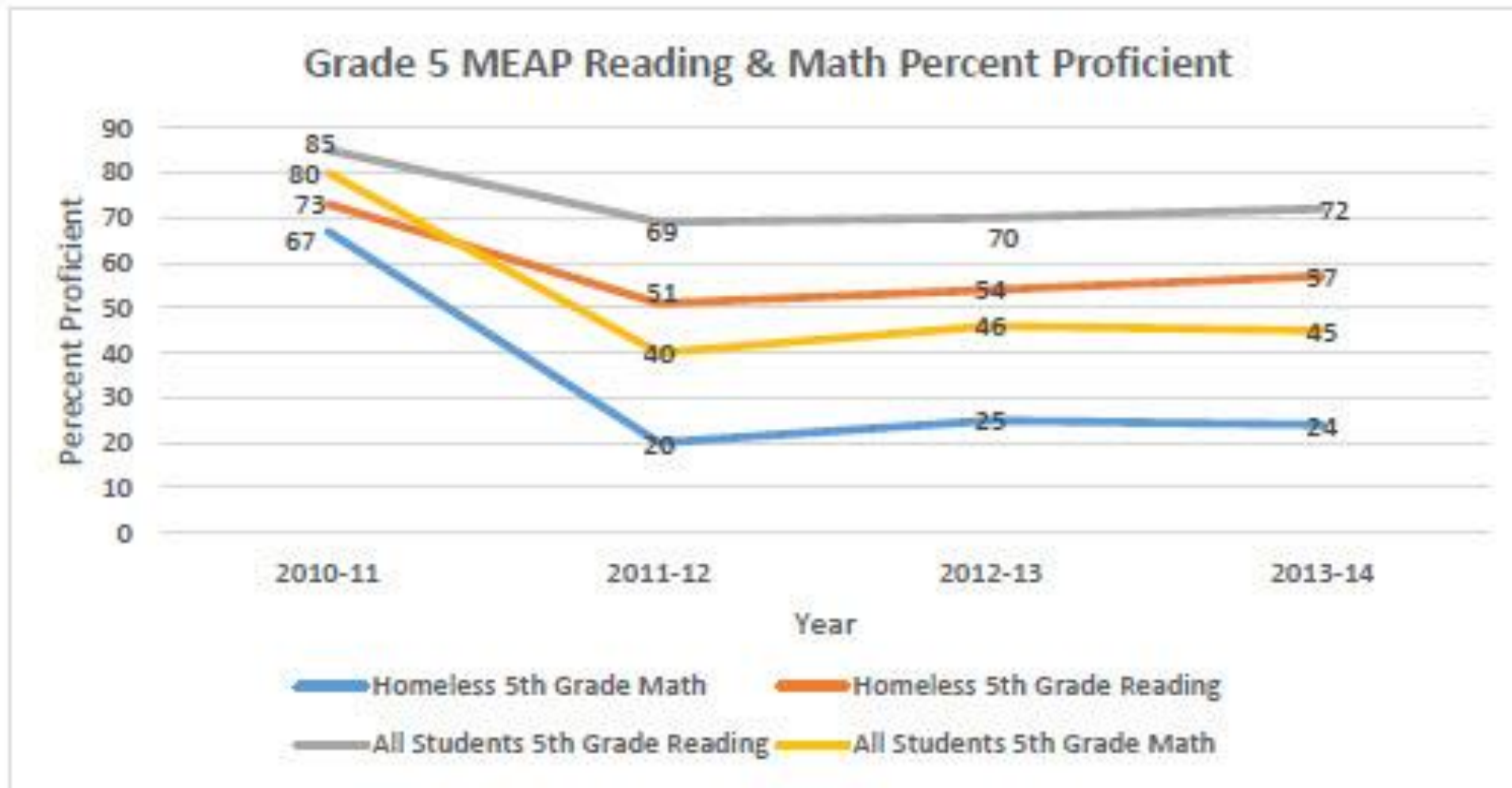
School Year	IEP/IDEA (With Disability)	UHY (Unaccompanied HmIs Youth)	LEP/ELL (English Learner)	Migrant
2008-09	1,608	3,114	249	88
2009-10	4,238	2,626	730	166
2010-11	5,690	3,543	1,078	447
2011-12	7,892	4,769	1,709	462
2012-13	7,709	4,861	1,706	383
2013-14	7,911	4,807	1,223	481



# Homeless Student Academic Outcomes

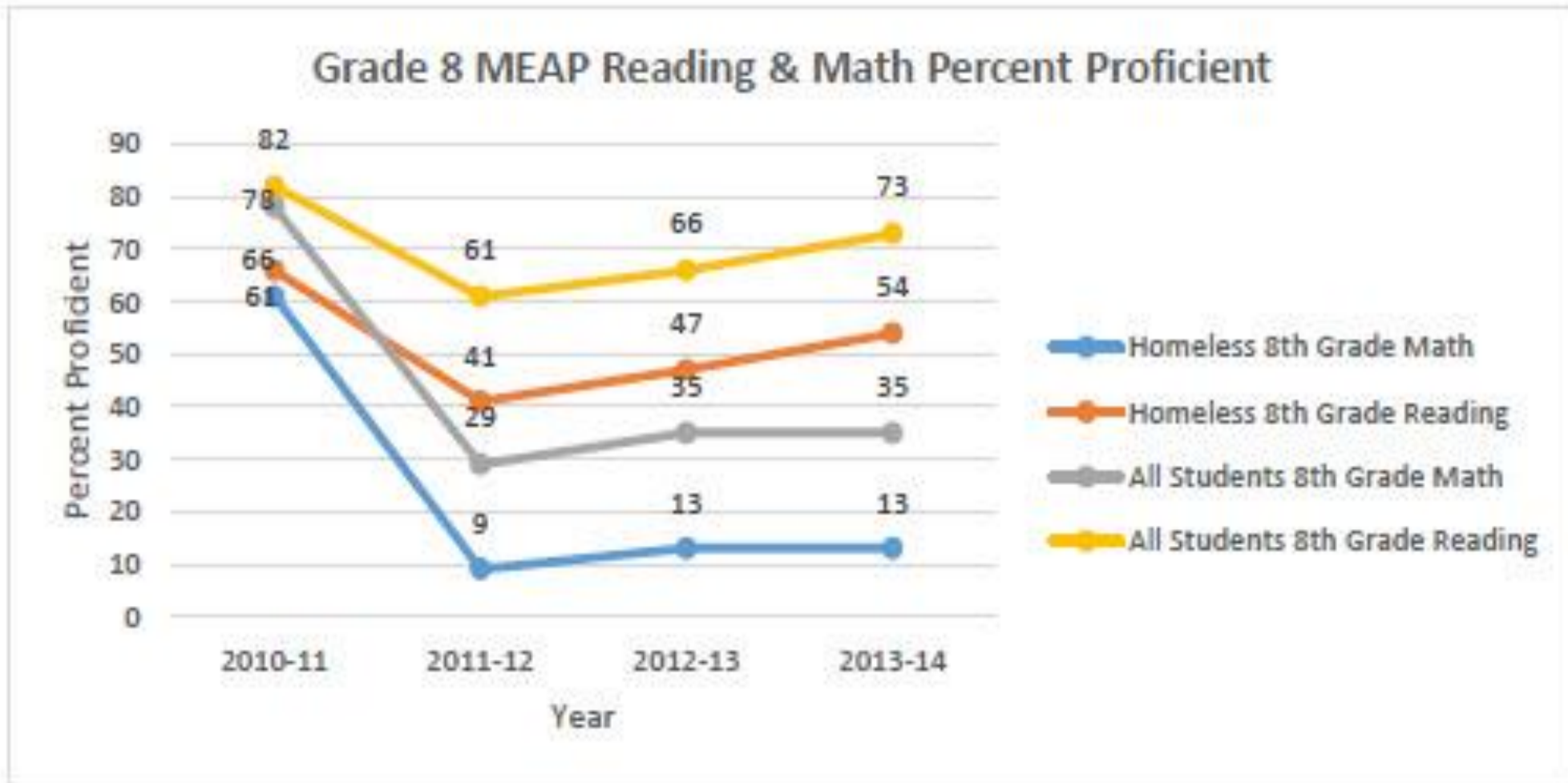


# Homeless Student Academic Outcomes

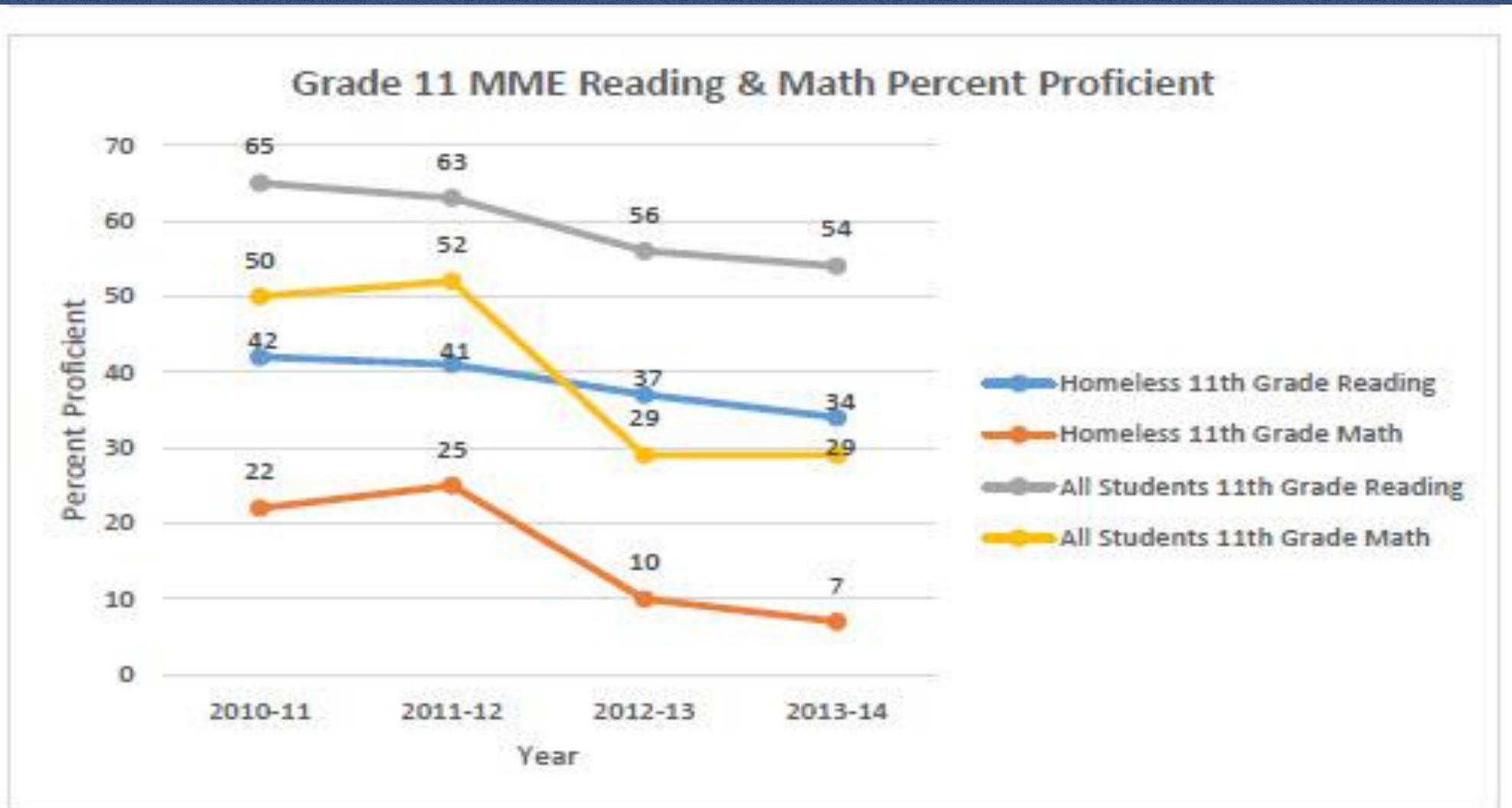




# Homeless Student Academic Outcomes



# Homeless Student Academic Outcomes





# School District Responsibilities

- The law applies to ALL public schools – traditional (LEAs), charter schools/public school academies (PSAs), and intermediate school districts (ISDs)
- Every district must **designate an appropriate staff person** as a Local Homeless Education Liaison to ensure that homeless children and youth “have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth”



# School District Responsibilities

- **Review and revise any policies that may act as barriers** to the enrollment of homeless children and youth, with particular consideration to requirements for —
 

Transportation	Immunization	Guardianship
Birth certificates	School records	Attendance
Residency requirements	ETC.	School fees
- Direct special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youth who are **not currently attending school**





# District Liaison Responsibilities

**District Homeless Education Liaisons must ensure that homeless children and youth:**

- Are identified by school personnel (through coordination with other entities and agencies)
- Enroll in, attend, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in schools of the district
- Receive educational services for which they are eligible
- Receive referrals to other appropriate services



# District Liaison Responsibilities

**District Homeless Education liaisons must ensure that homeless parents/guardians are:**

- Informed of educational and related opportunities available to their child
- Fully informed of all transportation services to school selected and assisted in accessing these
- Provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in child's education





# District Liaison Responsibilities

## District Homeless Education Liaisons must ensure that:

- Public notice of educational rights of homeless children/youth are disseminated where services are received and families/youth frequent (schools, shelters, soup kitchens, community agencies, libraries, etc.)
- Enrollment disputes are mediated (as mandated in MV Law)

INFORMATION

FOR SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH

IF YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- In a shelter
- In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

*You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.*

**Eligible students have the right to:**

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is their preference and is feasible.
  - \* If the school district believes that the school selected is not in his/her best interest, then the district must provide the student with a written explanation of its position and inform the student of his/her right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the students' needs.

*If you believe you may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available.*

Local Liaison

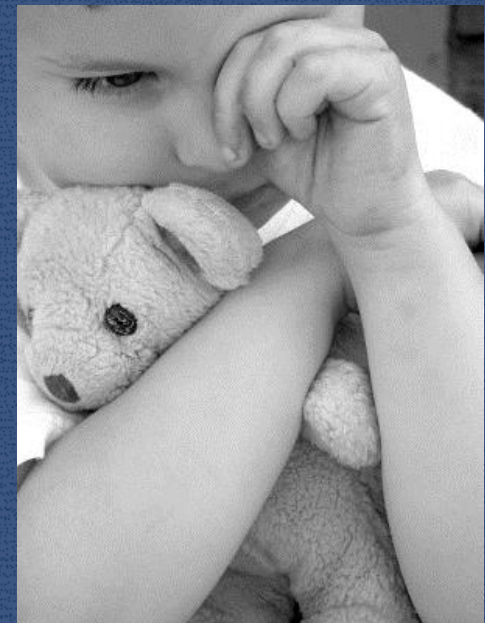
State Coordinator

If you need further assistance with your educational needs, contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145 • [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org) • [www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)

# Homeless Preschoolers

- **42% of children in homeless families are under 6 years old,** yet are significantly under-represented in preschool programs
- 16% of homeless preschoolers have behavioral problems, including severe aggression and hostility
- Are 4 times more likely than housed preschoolers to show developmental delays
- **Have TWICE the rate of learning disabilities as their non-homeless peers**
- **Are automatically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start**





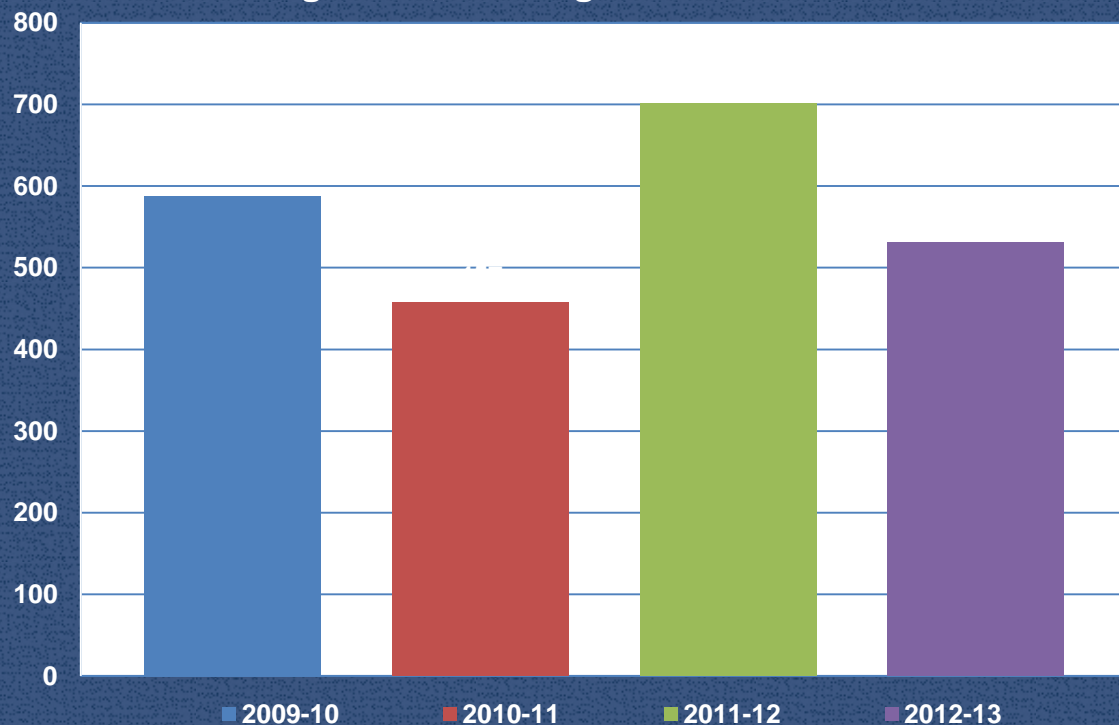
# Negative Consequences of Homelessness on Young Children

- Family history and stresses are cumulative and impact how children and adults think, feel, behave and relate to others.
  - ❑ Cumulative nature increases risk and negative consequences
  - ❑ Research associates with trauma and changes in brain development
- For young children, we must take into account the impact of homelessness on their mothers as well.

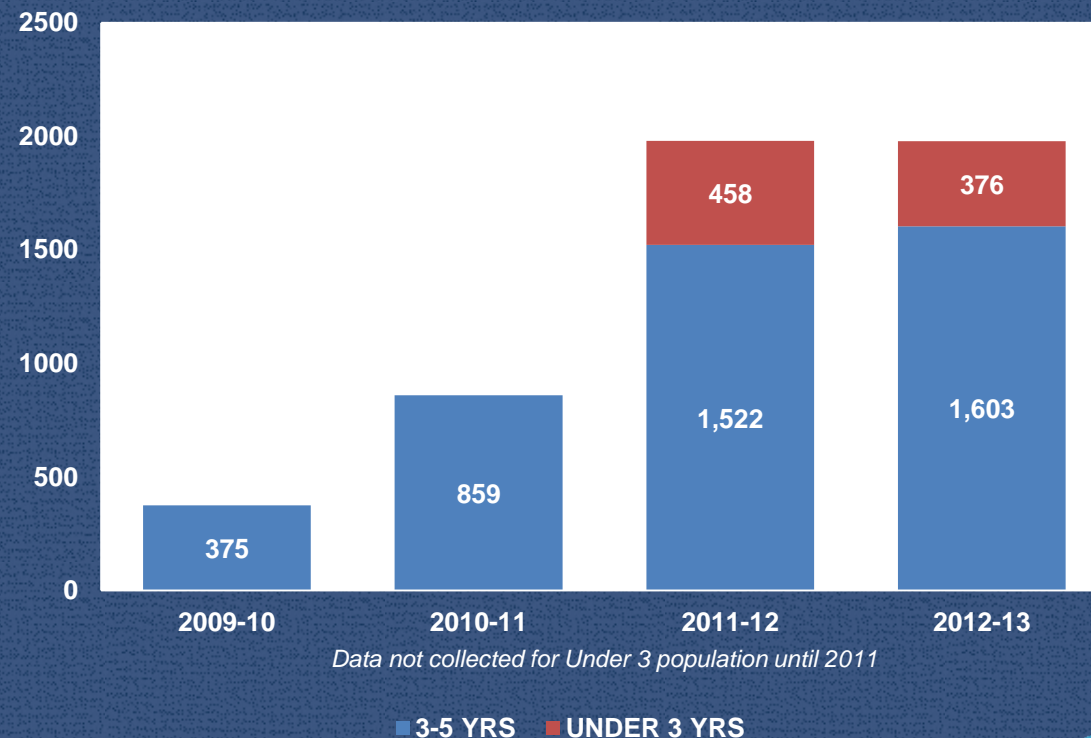


# Homeless Preschoolers Enrolled & Served in Michigan Public Schools (LEAs, PSAs, ISDs)

**HOMELESS CHILDREN ENROLLED**  
Ages 3-5, Not Kdgn

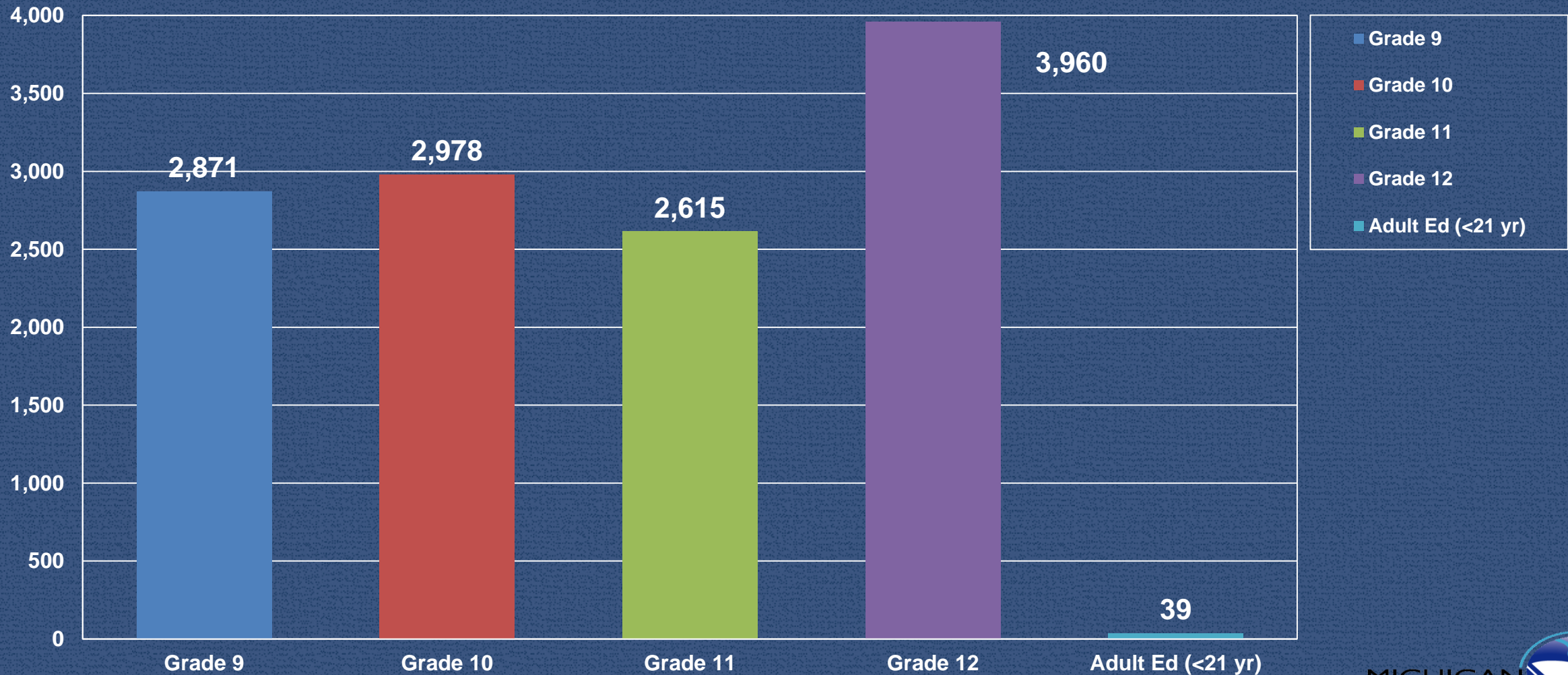


**HOMELESS CHILDREN SERVED**  
by MI MV Homeless Education Grants





# Homeless High School Students in MI 2013-2014



# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Researchers estimate that about 6-8% of youth – (about 1.6 to 1.7 million youth per year) experience homelessness
- Homeless youth often flee homes where they experience physical and sexual abuse
  - ❑ 40-60 % experience physical abuse
  - ❑ Between 20-40 % experience sexual abuse
- Homeless youth experience high rates of mental health disabilities (between 20-50 %) due to exposure to violence and chaos in their daily lives





# Who ARE Unaccompanied Youth?

- Various studies of homeless youth have shown high rates of parental alcohol or drug abuse (24 to 44%).
- **20 - 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ**
- 25 - % of youth who age out of foster care will end up homeless.
- In 2005, over 2,500 homeless and runaway youth were turned away from shelter and housing due to lack of bed spaces.



# Enrolling Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- The reason why the youth is not in the custody of a parent/guardian DOES NOT MATTER.
- Our role is not to pass judgment, but to EDUCATE the child/youth.



# Enrolling Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Unaccompanied homeless youth have the same rights as any other homeless student:
  - ❑ Remain in their school of origin (to the extent feasible)
  - ❑ Transportation to and from the school of origin
  - ❑ Immediately enroll in a new school serving the area in which they are currently living even if they don't have typically required documents
  - ❑ Equal access to programs and services such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, and English Language Learner services



# College Cost Reduction & Access Act

Expanded the definition of “Independent Student” to include:

- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Youth who are in foster care at any time after the age of 13
- Youth who are emancipated minors or are in legal guardianships (determined by a court in the individual's state of residence)
- Requires youth to be verified as unaccompanied and homeless during the school year in which they apply for aid, or as unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting.
  - *August 30, 2015: NEW LIST OF ROLES WHO CAN VERIFY HOMELESS STATUS OF YOUTH (Handout)*



# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and the FAFSA

## — ***NEW U.S.E.D. GUIDANCE! (July 2015)***

Independent Student determinations may now be made by:

- School District homeless liaison / *school personnel*
- *State Homeless Education Coordinators*
- *Staff from college access programs (TRIO or GEAR UP)*
- *College or high school counselors*
- College financial aid administrator / *even from other colleges*
- RHYA-funded shelter director or designee
- HUD-funded / *private or publicly funded* shelter director or designee
- *Mental health professionals, social workers, mentors, doctors, clergy*



# ***MORE - NEW U.S.E.D. GUIDANCE! (July 29, 2015)***

- Institutions are NOT REQUIRED to verify youths' answers
- Institutions should limit inquiry to ***WHETHER*** the applicant has been determined to be
  - unaccompanied and homeless,
  - or at risk of being homeless,
  - ***rather than the reasons*** for the applicant's homelessness
- Youth should use a mailing address on the FAFSA where they can reliably receive mail – friend's, relative's, school's, etc.
  - Use with permission and instructions on receiving mail there





# Questions?



# Contact Information

Homeless Education Program Office  
517-373-6066

[www.michigan.gov/homeless](http://www.michigan.gov/homeless)

State Coordinator for Homeless Education  
Pam Kies-Lowe

[kies-lowep@michigan.gov](mailto:kies-lowep@michigan.gov)

## MDE MV Monitors

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**NEW  
NUMBER**